

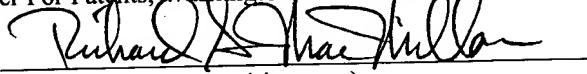
PATENT

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Response*

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
JOHN A. BECKMAN)
Serial No. 09/025,531)
Filed: February 18, 1998)
For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING)
A VEHICLE FRAME ASSEMBLY)
INCLUDING HYDROFORMED SIDE)
RAILS HAVING INTEGRALLY)
FORMED MOUNTING AREAS) Group Art Unit 3726
Examiner Trinh Nguyen
Attorney Docket 1-5119

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

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RESPONSE

Honorable Sir:

In response to the Official Letter, Paper No. 16, dated May 23, 2000, reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 11, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Horton et al. reference. It is believed that the rejection should have been made under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) because the Horton et al. reference issued after the filing date of this application. Regardless, the rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 defines the invention as a method for manufacturing a vehicle frame assembly including the initial step of hydroforming a first side rail so as to have an integrally formed mounting structure. A second side rail and a cross member are